

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A wound treatment device comprising a water-impermeable envelope having ~~at least~~ one aperture, wherein the envelope contains a therapeutic agent, and wherein the ~~at least~~ one aperture in the envelope is blocked by a degradable material that breaks down in the presence of one or more components of wound fluid thereby permitting the therapeutic agent to contact the wound fluid, wherein the ~~envelope has only one aperture, and~~ wherein the total area of the aperture in the envelope is from about 0.01 to about 1 cm², and wherein the therapeutic agent is retained inside the envelope after the aperture has opened.

Claim 2 (Original): A wound treatment device according to claim 1, wherein the envelope is formed substantially from flexible sheet material.

Claim 3 (Canceled):

Claim 4 (Canceled):

Claim 5 (Previously Presented) A wound treatment device according to claim 1, wherein the degradable material breaks down preferentially in infected wounds.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the degradable material comprises a substrate for an enzyme present in wound fluid.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A wound treatment device according to claim 6, wherein the degradable material comprises a substance selected from the group consisting of elastin, fibronectin, collagen, crosslinked gelatin, fibrinogen, casein, hyaluronates, plasminogen, fibrin, chitin, chitosan, oxidized cellulose, polylactide/polyglycolide copolymers, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A wound treatment device according to claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of antiseptics, antibiotics, analgesics, steroids and growth factors, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A wound treatment device according to claim 8, wherein the therapeutic agent comprises an antimicrobial agent selected from colloidal silver, silver sulfadiazine, povidone iodine, chlorhexidine, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A wound treatment device according to claim 8, wherein the device is adapted to provide sustained release of the therapeutic agent into the wound fluid following the opening of the aperture.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A wound treatment device according to claim 8, wherein the therapeutic substance is dispersed in or on a solid substrate.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A wound treatment device according to claim 8, wherein the therapeutic agent is dispersed or encapsulated in a bioerodible substance.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A wound treatment device according to claim 12, wherein the bioerodible substance is selected from the group consisting of proteins, polysaccharides, biodegradable synthetic polymers, glycosaminoglycans, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A wound treatment device according to claim 8, which is sterile and packaged in a microorganism-impermeable container.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A wound dressing comprising a wound treatment device according to claim 1.